

**INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE IN
INDIAN-ADMINISTERED KASHMIR (IPTK)**

**To: Mr. Omar Abdullah
Chief Minister
Jammu and Kashmir**

January 04, 2010

Re.: Inquiry pertaining to the death of Asiya Jan and Neelofar Jan of Shopian

Dear Mr. Omar Abdullah:

We are writing on behalf of the International People's Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice in Indian-administered Kashmir [<http://www.kashmirprocess.org>].

On December 30, 2009, the Majils-e-Mashawarat of Shopian, Kashmir, requested that IPTK inquire into the death of Ms. Asiya Jan and Mrs. Neelofar Jan in May 2009. They have done so on the contention that state institutions, and the investigations authorized by them, have been unable to deliver an accurate understanding of the matter or define a mechanism for justice.

IPTK, as an independent forum, seeks to inquire into issues of institutionalized violence, social trauma, and human rights abuses. Given the contested social facts, and legal and political circumstances of the Shopian event, and the investigations of the state that followed, we are convinced of the efficacy of an independent inquiry into the matter.

IPTK proposes to undertake:

1. Analyses by internationally reputed anthropological, forensic, gender, legal, and medical experts of all relevant documents prepared by state institutions.
2. Archival and applied research into the context and course of events, and examination and collection of testimonies from the families of the deceased, local community members, relevant experts, police, security forces, and state officials, and the uncovering of possible new evidence, utilizing rigorous and ethical methodological standards.

We note that you have promised attentiveness and accountability to human rights issues in Kashmir. In conjunction, in proceeding with the above, we are writing to request the following, delineated below, with hope that you will agree in order that an independent, transparent, and people's investigation may ensue. We seek:

1. Physical access to all relevant Central Reserve Police Force and army camps, and police stations in Shopian district.
2. Access to documents assembled and prepared by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir that form the evidentiary basis of the state's conclusions on the Shopian event, including forensic reports and the testimonials rendered by security forces and state officials.
3. Access to police and security forces personnel, and medical personnel that testified to the commission of inquiry headed by Justice (Retired) Muzaffar Jan between May-July 2009.

4. Access to officers of the Special Investigating Team of police that collaborated with the Jan Commission following its interim report, per your order.
5. Access to local officers that assisted the Central Bureau of Investigation in its inquiry between September-December 2009.
6. That any witnesses that elect to testify to the IPTK process be permitted to do so without duress, or adverse consequences being threatened or befalling them, from personnel or institutions of the state.

Yours sincerely,

Angana Chatterji, Parvez Imroz, Gautam Navlakha, Zahir-Ud-Din, Mihir Desai, Khurram Parvez

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